

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Laurie Diestler
The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum
One Courthouse Square
Inverness, Florida 34450

Phone: (352) 341-6429
Fax: (352) 341-6445
e-mail: ldiestler@clerk.citrus.fl.us

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum proud to announce the opening of a new train exhibit

Inverness... The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum will be opening its next exhibit in the John Murray Davis Rotating Gallery titled ***All Aboard! The History of Trains in Citrus County***, on Friday, January 9, 2008.

Railroading in Florida has its own distinctive story. In the middle of the 1800s, Florida's railroads were established in response to the needs of agriculture and for movement of people between towns and cities in the northern part of the state.

As railroads spread outward from towns and cities like the spokes of a wheel, they were an integral part of every community, and a central element of commerce and civic vitality. Like the blood vessels of a body, they carried the lifeblood of the country — its goods and population — across the American landscape.

Nearly everyone traveled by train only a few generations ago. This was born out of the Industrial Revolution in the early 1800s. The invention of the locomotive led to one of the greatest changes in the history of humanity since farming began about twelve thousand years ago.

In printed and painted illustration, the pictorial symbol of "Progress" was an unstoppable steam locomotive, chugging across the continent. This remarkable era of railroad transportation, however, ended in the United States when railroads withdrew from thousands of American communities after World War II. With new competing technology, the changing needs of industry, and the ascending service-oriented economy, railroads disappeared from many places.

Come and explore this exhibit about trains in Florida and Citrus County...**ALL ABOARD!**

11:00 p.m. Saturday, January 17, 2009 Old Courthouse

Join us for a special presentation by Harold McGee, Railroad Historian, on Saturday, January 17, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. McGee will present an interesting PowerPoint about the trains and rail lines in Citrus County. There will also be kids activities happening on that day. Come join in the fun!

This program is free and open to the public. Museum hours on this day will be 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

For additional information contact Laurie Diestler at (352) 341-6429.